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### A COLLECTOR AND HIS HOARDS

The superior person has from time to time his fun with the collector, but he has much less to say, when a Robert Lenox gives his pictures to the Public Library in New York, a John G. Johnson remembers Philadelphia in his will and a Benjamin Altman equips the Metropolitan of New York with a host of old masters. It is a good idea for the collector to make his present whilst he lives: that is what General Harrison Gray Otis of Los Angeles must think, for he has given his home called The Bivouac to Los Angeles for a museum, art gallery and centre for exhibitions and lectures together with his collections of prints, engravings and other art objects. General Otis is the owner of a newspaper whose place of publication was ruined by dynamite with great loss of life some years ago. He has erected on the grounds of the estate a small copy of the *Times* building thus destroyed. In addition to the residence fronting on Wilshire Boulevard and on one side overlooking Westlake Park, there are three other buildings on the property. A beginning having been made by General Otis, the normal thing will be further gifts of money or collections from other citizens so that presently the public will have another centre for the art-lovers and artists of Southern California. The ideas of the donor cover a wide range; he suggests schools, lectures and music recitals, plays, operatic performances and classic dances in addition to the fine and applied arts—a sort of art college, if one may judge by the reports of his written presentation of the property to the city. An institute on this ample plan is not established in a year or a decade, but Californians are used to a big scale in all their undertakings and it may be that the scheme will be wrought with a quickness not usual in the Eastern States or even those of the Middle West.

### VOCAL MUSIC IN CENTRAL PARK

During the summer there are performances of vocal music in Central Park, Manhattan, under the management of the New York Community Chorus, having an office at 70 Fifth Avenue with Mr. Barnett Braslow as Secretary. This year the Community Chorus has called for singers again. Rehearsals under the lead of Mr. Harry Barnhart are held every Tuesday evening in the High School of Commerce, 155 West 65th Street, Manhattan. Permits have been issued by Mr. Cabot Ward, Commissioner of Parks, and every Sunday between two and four the Chorus sings on the Mall, the first meeting taking place the first of July. A special celebration for July Fourth will be held under the auspices of the Mayor's Committee in the evening at the Stadium of City College, Amsterdam Avenue and 137th Street, when the Community Chorus will take part. These great popular demonstrations are very difficult to manage, but they are often astonishingly effective because with the will there's the way—and under enthusiastic leadership the drill becomes a pleasure.

### SUMMER SHOW AT THE CENTURY

The Century Association has equipped the walls of its gallery with a collection of paintings by club members which will remain for the summer months. A notable bit of nude is the half-draped figure of Venus with repentant Cupid at her knee by Carroll Beckwith, a painting which he calls

"Sylvan Toilette." Handsome modeling and a fine mass of color in the drapery put this picture by itself among the exhibits. Marine battles painted by Carlton Chapman show the historic fight of the *Constitution* against the *Cyane* and *Levant* in 1815 when both the British ships were captured and the fleet action on Lake Erie during the same war; the latter painting is called "One Hundred Years Ago." In genre work one can admire the drawing of Harry W. Watrous as shown by "The Juggler"—a pretty girl in black tights who has a trained raven before her on a table while she keeps colored balls and butterflies in the air. Wm. V. Schevill sends a full-length portrait of his wife and a likeness of the son of the late Karl Bitter, the sculptor. There are attractive shorescapes by Howard Russell Butler and a well-turned "Village Street—October" by Charles Vezin; some sketches in oil by the sculptor Thomas Shields Clarke and a wood-interior "Where the Trout Lurks" by William H. Lippincott. A large canvas "Winter Night" by William L. Carrigan represents the air full of snowflakes with objects dimly seen, and another "Glacier and Fiord" by Lockwood de Forest tells a story of Alaska. Augustus Vincent Tack contributes a seated portrait of Mrs. Lister Carlisle painted in the flaky "divisional" brushwork of his latter day style, rich and compelling from a proper distance; while Gardner Symons offers one of his realistic snowscapes.

### SOME RECENT BOOKS

"A Virginian Village." By E. S. Nadal. A collection of articles and papers ranging from Washington and Lincoln to saddle horses is ranged under some very delightful reminiscences of the village in West Virginia where the writer was born. Son of a minister and graduate of Yale, the author tried school-teaching, drifted into diplomacy and made a hit among literary connoisseurs by the flavor of a little volume on the social side of London life. Not only was this book free from the satirical punch the subject might have called for, but it had a classic simplicity and happy turn of phrase that can not be learned; they are inborn. This quality appears from time to time in "A Virginian Mountain Village," "London Recollections of Lowell," "A Virginian Journey." Mr. Nadal has the unusual distinction of being an expert in horses as well as author and diplomat, so that "A Horse-Fair Pilgrimage" and "Types of Kentucky Saddle Horses" are not the mere superficial notes of a traveler, which might be interesting all the same, but entertaining and, to horsey people, instructive pages from one who knows his topic. "Texan Scenery" and "Contrasts of English and American Scenery" may be specially commended. On the other hand, "Virginia Women" and "Southern Literature" are disappointing, as if the writer had become the victim of that incurable paralysis of the pen when the topic is particularly near and close to the heart. But there is not a single chapter without its value and certainly one has to look far before finding any one who can invest the lazy atmosphere of country village and inland hills with so much charm. Mr. Nadal ought to write a book about "Characters" he has known "down South." He could do it critically and kindly, all in his charming conversational style. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1917)